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NEW CRITICAL MAGAZINES

Lecture on Kenneth Anger - Tony Rayns

KENNETH ANGER CHRONOLOGY

1930 Born, Santa Monica, California

1934 Acted as the Changeling in Midsummer Night's Dream, directed by Max Reinhardt and William Dieterle.

1937 Earliest film-making: Ferdinand the Bull, with the Boy Scouts.

1941 First 'personal' film; made in 16mm with the family Kodak: Who Has Been Rocking my Dream Boat, a montage of children at play, drifting and dreaming, in the last summer before Pearl Harbour.

1942 Tinsel Tree, the ritual dressing and destruction of the Christmas Tree.

1942 Prisoner of Mars, a science-fiction rendering of the Minotaur myth, featuring Anger himself as the Boy-Elect from Earth.

1943 The Nest, a Cocteau-esque psychodrama, in which "a brother and sister relate to mirrors and each other until a third party breaks the balance".

1944 Escape Episode, a free rendering of the Andromeda myth.

1945 Drastic Demise, showing "sexually turned-on crowds on V.J. day".

1946 Preparation of a sound version of Escape Episode, featuring music by Scriabin and non-realistic sound effects; first exhibited film.

1947 Fireworks.

1949 Elaborately-planned feature Puce Women, an epitaph for the lost Hollywood; one sequence only (Puce Moment) realised.

1950 Anger, along with his contemporaries Markopoulos & Harrington, travels to Europe. Anger shoots twenty minutes of 35mm black & white rushes for a film La Lune des Lapins, until recently deposited in the Cinemathèque Française. Anger now sees these rushes as having taken on a life of their own, existing as "aesthetic relic and 'Enigma'.

1951/2 Project to film Lautreamont's Chants de Maldoror.

1953 Le Jeune Homme et la Mort, a short version of Cocteau's ballet, now unshowable for copyright reasons. Choreography by Roland Petit.

1953 Eaux d'Artifice, shot in Italy.

1954 Original version of Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome. A single-screen version, with no superimpositions, using music by Harry Partch.

P.T.O.

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1955 Return to Europe. A short commissioned (now lost) documentary shot in Sicily: Thelema Abbey, a report on Anger's restoration of the murals of Aleister Crowley's Magick headquarters.

1956/8 Various abortive projects, including further attempts to film Meldoror.

1958 3-screen version of Pleasure Dome prepared for Brussels Festival.

1959/61 Project to film L'Histoire d'O, after the Olympia Press novel by 'Pauline Reage'.

1962 Return to America.

1963/4 Scorpio Rising.

1965 Ford Foundation grant for Scorpio enables Anger to begin Kustom Kar Kommandos. One short sequence only completed.

1965 Brief visit to Britain. Anger Aquarian Arcanum, a short prologue to Pleasure Dome, shot here. 'Final' version of Pleasure Dome prepared, with single screen, and up to quintuple superimposition.

1966 Return to America, where Anger begins shooting the 'love vision' Lucifer Rising. Nearly all his footage is stolen after a benefit screening of a rough-cut.

1967 Anger publicly renounces film-making with a full-page in The Village Voice. He leaves America for Britain.

1968/9 Anger secretly prepares a short film from the remaining Lucifer rushes: Invocation of my Demon Brother.

1970 Anger plans and begins work on a new version of Lucifer Rising, as a 93-minute feature in colour. He completes the opening segment: Lucifer Rising, Chapter One.

1971: Anger completes a new version of La Lune Des Lapins, conceived and edited in London, released as "Rabbit's Moon". He continues work on "Lucifer Rising" and another project, "Crowley's Curse".

1973: Anger returns to America from London to prepare a new edition of his book HOLLYWOOD BABYLON, and to present LUCIFER RISING, PART ONE (30 mins, color), which includes the section released in 1970 as LUCIFER RISING, CHAPTER ONE, plus the Osiris-Isis-Lillith sequence filmed in Egypt.

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